

WE CLAIM

1       1. An expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus having a deletion of the  
2 region encoding amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product wherein said vector further  
3 comprises exogenous DNA operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression  
4 of said exogenous DNA.

1       2. The expression vector of claim 1 wherein said exogenous DNA encodes an  
2 antigen.

1       3. The expression vector of claim 1 in which one or more non-essential virus-  
2 encoded gene functions have been deleted from the vaccinia virus.

1       4. A composition comprising the expression vector of claim 1 and a carrier.

1       5. A method of making a recombinant gene product comprising subjecting an  
2 expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus having a deletion of the region encoding  
3 amino acids 184-190 of the E3L gene product and wherein said vector further comprises  
4 exogenous DNA that encodes said recombinant gene product operably linked to regulatory  
5 elements that control expression thereof, to conditions whereby said recombinant gene  
6 product is expressed.

1       6. The method of claim 5 further comprising recovering said recombinant gene  
2 product.